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ABSTRACT

Reports, some only partial, from the member states regarding their action on the topic of international standards for library statistics are presented. The 22 countries represented in this report are: Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Cuba, Dahomey, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Libya, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Yugoslavia. (SJ)

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General Conference 17 C

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Item 21 of the Provisional Agenda

INITIAL SPECIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY THEM UPON THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF LIBRARY STATISTICS, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONCERENCE DURING ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

SUMMARY

This document reproduces information contained in the initial special reports forwarded by Member States as at 13 September 1972 on the action taken by them upon the above-mentioned Recommendation.

Decision required: paragraph 12.

LI 004 121

INTRODUCTION

1. Article VIII of the Constitution lays down that Member States shall report periodically to the Organization on the action taken by them upon the recommendations and conventions referred to in Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution; in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 6, these reports are considered by the General Conference.

2. Article 16 of the "Rules of Procedure Concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution" stipulates in this regard, firstly, that these periodic reports on the action taken upon recommendations and conventions shall be "special reports" distinct from the general reports which Member States submit to the Organization and, secondly, that the initial special reports shall be transmitted in time for consideration by the General Conference at its first ordinary session following that at which such recommendation or convention was adopted.

3. At its sixteenth session, the General Conference adopted, on 13 November 1970, the Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics.(1)

4. Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution provides that each of the Member States shall submit recommendations or conventions adopted by the General Conference to its "competent authorities" within a period of one year from the close of the session of the General Conference at which they were adopted. For this purpose, certified true copies of the above-mentioned instrument were transmitted to Member States by letter CL/2125 of 8 February 1971.

5. In accordance with the Constitutional provisions cited above and with Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure also referred to above, the General Conference, under a resolution adopted at its sixteenth session (16 C/Resolution 41) invited Member States to submit, not less than two months prior to the opening of its seventeenth session, initial special reports on the action taken by them upon the Recommendation mentioned in paragraph 3 above. Under the same resolution, the General Conference invited Member States to include in such reports information on the points specified in paragraph 4 of resolution 50 adopted at its tenth session. Under the terms of the latter resolution, Member States were invited, when submitting initial special reports relating to conventions or recommendations adopted by the General Conference, to include in these reports, as far as possible, information on the following:

"(a) whether the convention or recommendation has been submitted to the competent national authority or authorities in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and Article I of the Rules of Procedure Concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions;

(b) the name of the competent authority or authorities in the reporting State;

(c) whether such authority or authorities have taken any steps to give effect to the convention or recommendation;

(d) the nature of such steps".

6. In accordance with the instructions of the General Conference and with a view to assisting governments of Member States in preparing special reports along the lines indicated by the General Conference, the Director-General has prepared a document for the benefit of the governments of Member States containing "the various provisions of the Constitution and the regulations applicable, together with the other suggestions that the General Conference itself has found it necessary to formulate, at its earlier sessions, concerning the submission of conventions and recommendations to the competent authorities". This document is entitled "Memorandum concerning the obligation to submit conventions and recommendations adopted by the General Conference to the 'competent authorities' and the submission of initial special reports on the action taken upon these conventions and recommendations".

(1) At its same session, the General Conference, on 14 November 1970, adopted also the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Initial special reports submitted by Member States on this Convention are reporduced in document 17 C/16.

7. The Director-General informed Member States of the foregoing, and forwarded to them copies of the above-mentioned memorandum, by letter CL/2191 of 21 February 1972, requesting them to send the special reports to reach him within the time-limit prescribed by the Rules of Procedure, that is, before 17 August 1972. A second letter on this subject (CL/2217) was also sent to them on 27 June 1972.

8. As at 13 September 1972, special reports on the Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics had been received from 22 Member States.(1)

9. Not all these reports are reproduced in full. When considering at its fifteenth session, the initial special reports of which it was seized at that session, the General Conference noted that a large part of the information reproduced by the Secretariat did not reply to the questions set out in resolution 50 quoted above, and authorized the Director-General to reproduce in future only such information as relates to sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of resolution 50.

10. For the sake of convenience the special reports received are reproduced in the present document in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States which provided them. Annexes to the reports, such as explanatory booklets have not been reproduced. They have been placed for safe keeping in the archives of the Secretariat.

11. The General Conference decided at its fifteenth session (15 C/Resolution 12.2) that the duty of examining the reports of Member States should be undertaken by the Legal Committee, as from the sixteenth session of the General Conference; in consequence, the General Conference enlarged the terms of reference of this Committee as defined in Rule 32 of the former's Rules of Procedure.

12. Under the terms of Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the "Rules of Procedure Concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution", the General Conference is required to consider the special reports submitted by Member States in connexion with the Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics and to embody its comments on the action taken by Member States in pursuance of the Recommendation in one or more general reports, which shall be transmitted to Member States, to the United Nations, to National Commissions, and to any other authorities specified by the General Conference.

(1) One Member State sent to the Director-General information on library facilities available in a geographical area covered by that Member State and several other Member States. As this information does not reply to the questions set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 50 adopted by the General Conference at its tenth session, it has not been reproduced in the present document (see also paragraph 9 below).

BRAZIL

1. The Recommendation was submitted for consideration to the competent national authorities in the field of the standardization of library statistics.

2. The authorities consulted were the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation.

3. These authorities have prepared an outline of the steps to be taken to give effect to the Recommendation and, in particular, a project for its conversion into a decree law.

4. Measures are presently in hand to promulgate the decree law, so that the provisions of the Recommendation can be applied in Brazil.

BULGARIA

The standards and principles contained in this Recommendation are fully in effect in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

CANADA

The National Library of Canada has revised its statistical methods in accordance with the Recommendation. The measures taken were applicable to the Catalogue Directorate, the reference service and the acquisitions service of the Library. On completion of the project to measure the size of the collection by metres of occupied shelves, which is the most difficult recommendation to put into effect, the statistics of the National Library will be in accordance with the standards of the Recommendation.

The National Library and the National Science Library have completed a study which will issue in the standardization of the statistics in the Annual Reports of these two institutions. Taken as a whole, these statistics will conform to the standards suggested in the Recommendation, or can easily be modified to do so.

The National Library has carried out a survey on methods in force in some 200 libraries of the Federal Government. One of the aims of the survey is to examine their statistical methods with a view to standardization, to make them compatible with the Unesco Recommendation.

CYPRUS

The Recommendation has been submitted to the competent authority of the Republic, which is the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education has decided to adopt the definitions, classification of libraries and presentation of library statistics as formulated in the above Unesco Recommendation. To this effect appropriate regulations are at the stage of preparation and when completed they will be brought to the attention of authorities and services responsible for collecting and communicating library statistics.

The Ministry of Education will also organize short courses and seminars for the training of the personnel responsible for collecting and compiling library statistics.

CUBA

(a) The Recommendation was submitted to the competent national authorities in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Constitution and Article I of the Rules of Procedure Concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions.

(b) The competent authority of the Cuban State submitting this report is Louis Pavón Tamayo, President of the National Council for Culture.

(c) and (d) The standards set out in the Recommendation on Library Statistics are in exact correspondence with the system used in our country in the network of public libraries under the National Directorate of Libraries of the National Council for Culture, except as regards the item registered borrowers.

As opposed to the practices of libraries in other countries, in the National Library and the Cuban Public Libraries numerous services are obtainable without enrolment from reading room facilities as regards publications other than those on the national rare books collection to the provision of information and references, hearing records etc. Prior registration is only required for the removal of documents from libraries or access to the rare books collections in libraries. For this reason, if the statistical reports were confined to registered borrowers, whom we call members, they would not present a true picture of activities, and so we prefer the term user which can cover all who get library services, plus the term services to cover not only reading room facilities, but the provision of information help in extension activities, record auditions and other cultural activities.

DAHOMEY

The Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics has been submitted for examination by Dahomean specialists. The Government expects to be informed of their recommendations in the near future.

DENMARK

The Recommendation has been forwarded to the Office of the National Librarian and the State Inspection of Public Libraries.

As a consequence hereof the Council of Research Libraries has taken steps to give effect to the Recommendation as from 1971/1972.

Statistics in the field of public libraries are also as widely as possible based upon the principles of the Recommendation. Further steps will be taken in connexion with a revision of the Public Libraries Act which is under consideration at present.

FINLAND

The Finnish Ministry of Education has forwarded the Recommendation to the following competent national authorities: Division for Libraries of the National Board of Schools, Council of Research Libraries and the Central Statistical Office. The following actions have been taken upon the Recommendation.

The Council of Research Libraries has prepared on the basis of the Recommendation a new statistical form in common for research libraries according to which the libraries belonging to the joint statistics of research libraries have compiled their statistics in 1971.

Selected statistics have been published in the Library Magazine.

The Recommendation has been published in a Finnish magazine called Sigmun 1971: 9/10 p. 155-159. The Recommendation has also been sent to all the libraries belonging to the joint statistics.

As to the public libraries, information can be obtained in 1972 on the total amount of the fixed library units (main, branch and institutional libraries), on book collection with classification - according to the Recommendation - of collections with up to 2,000, with 2,001-5,000 with 5,001-10,000, and with more than 10,000 volumes on the growth of the collections compared to the preceding year, and on the amount of registered borrowers. Further, there is information obtainable on the total expenses of the libraries as well as expenses on salaries and literature. Owing to the great amount of libraries (about 3,000 library units) in Finland, the carrying into effect of the Recommendation will take a long time, at least about five years.

The Central Statistical Office does not compile the library statistics. It publishes statistics on research and communal libraries compiled by the two national authorities mentioned above in the Official Statistical Yearbook. The task of the Central Statistical Office is inter alia to make annually the development programme for statistics of the State at least for the following three years and to control the realization of the programme. While planning the development programme for the years 1974-1978, the Central Statistical Office has a possibility to take into account the national as well as the international needs to develop the library statistics.

FRANCE

The establishment of library statistics in accordance with Unesco's suggestions is still hampered, in France by certain difficulties and at the present time this country is not in a position to answer more than a fraction of the questions posed in the questionnaire prepared by Unesco in accordance with the Recommendation of 13 November 1970.

These difficulties vary according to the legal status of establishments, and with regard to public libraries (in the institutional sense of the word), on the administration under which they come.

1. PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1.1 Libraries exclusively dependent on the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique (DBLP):

National libraries of Paris and central lending libraries. There are no major difficulties in collecting statistics on these establishments. The application of the new international standards raises no more than problems of adaptation which have not yet been entirely solved, but will be by degrees.

1.2 Libraries under the joint jurisdiction of the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique and another autonomous entity

1.21 University libraries. There should be no difficulty in compiling the required statistics, but the structural changes which should be completed by the end of 1972 have compelled the postponement of this work. It should be possible to carry it out in 1973 or 1974.

1.22 Libraries of the major scientific establishments of the Ministry of National Education. The statistics can be produced from 1973.

1.3 Libraries supervised by the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique

This category covers the Municipal libraries of all towns other than Paris. For these libraries a new statistical returns form was recently prepared which conforms to the new international standards and figures were published for the years 1969 and 1970. However, it was not possible to obtain returns from more than about 80 per cent of establishments. Furthermore, while the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique can provide information on the approximate number of libraries in each of the four groups established by Unesco in terms of the size of collections, it is

out of the question for it to be able to give a breakdown of the data according to these categories for many years to come. This work would in fact require resources which seem wholly disproportionate to the possible usefulness of such a breakdown.

1.4 Libraries not under the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique

1.41 School libraries. These come under the Direction des établissements d'enseignement élémentaire et secondaire of the Ministry of Education, which is not at this writing in possession of the necessary statistical data to reply to the questions posed by Unesco. No survey, even partial, seems to be planned.

1.42 Libraries of university institutes or departments. These libraries are directly under their respective institutes or departments and seem never to have been the subject of any statistical survey at national level.

1.43 Libraries of the "Grandes écoles" or other institutions of higher education. Same observation as for 1.42.

1.44 Libraries under Ministries other than that of Education or under other public bodies. This group includes a great many major libraries, such as those of the Conseil d'Etat, the Cour de cassation, the Cour des comptes, the National Assembly, etc. No statistical survey has as yet been made of them.

1.45 Libraries of the City of Paris. The Préfet of Paris has recently been requested by the Direction des Bibliothèques et de la Lecture Publique, to provide data conforming to the Unesco standards for the research libraries, special libraries and public lending libraries under his authority. The results have not yet reached DBLP, but it would seem likely that this is merely due to a delay.

2. PRIVATE LIBRARIES

No statistics have been compiled for these libraries in France. A survey of them would be very costly and does not appear feasible in the immediate future.

These libraries may be grouped in two broad categories:

2.1 Special libraries

Statistics on these establishments, if not impossible are nevertheless very difficult to compile, inasmuch as there is no precise line of demarcation between this type of library and the documentation centres.

2.2 Public (or popular) libraries (libraries of companies, hospitals, lay or religious associations, etc.)

These libraries have an important rôle in France but it is very difficult even to determine their numbers. A survey of them would be unlikely to provide other than the most fragmentary data.

To sum up, for 1971 France can only supply a very small proportion of the statistical data requested by Unesco.

There should be an improvement in the situation in the next few years, particularly with regard to university libraries proper.

At a later date, further returns will be possible if as is currently envisaged, the statistics can be processed by a computer, in connexion with the running of the Répertoire des bibliothèques et organismes de documentation /List of libraries and documentation centres/.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

In accordance with Article IV paragraph 4 of the Constitution of Unesco of 16 November 1945, the Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics adopted on 13 November 1970 at the sixteenth session of the General Conference by the Member States of Unesco will now be brought to the attention of the competent authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany. The competent authorities in the Federal Republic are the legislative bodies, the German Bundestag and the Bundesrat. The Recommendation is also before the federal ministries and the Standing Treaty Committee (Ständige Vertragskommission) of the Federal Laender.

The Recommendation led the German Library Conference to develop library statistics in all fields. At the same time all public and private libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany were included in the programme, the Unesco Recommendation serving as a useful basis. An editorial team from the German Library Statistics at the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz was established and has already started work. A detailed report on initial experience gained will be submitted during 1973.

At the present time it is still being considered how legal effect can be given to the provisions of the Recommendation in the Federal Republic of Germany.

INDIA

The Recommendation is under the consideration of the competent authority.

ISRAEL

The Recommendation was submitted to the following authorities:

The Ministry of Education and Culture.
The Central Bureau of Statistics.
The State Archives and Library.

It was also brought to the notice of the following pertinent bodies:

The National and University Library.
The Israel Library Association.
The Members of the Israel Committee set up in 1969 by the National Commission to consider and comment on the Preliminary Draft Recommendation.

The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Central Bureau of Statistics are preparing an extensive survey of all types of libraries in Israel. The survey is being undertaken as part of the Israel activities for the International Book Year, and the criteria and methods to be used are those of the above Recommendation. The survey will also take into consideration the specific needs of the country. The results of the survey will be transmitted to Unesco when it is completed.

JAPAN

(a) The official Japanese translation of the certified true copy of the Recommendation was submitted by the Cabinet to the competent national authority on 21 May 1971.

(b) The name of the competent authority is the Diet.

(c) No step has been taken by the Diet in direct connexion with the Recommendation.

Note: The official Japanese translation of the text of the Recommendation was reproduced in quantity by the Japanese National Commission for Unesco, and distributed to the governmental agencies concerned and prefectural boards of education which are responsible for local public administration in regard to libraries and library statistics, as well as to libraries and their associations.

LIBYA

The Recommendation has been translated into Arabic and will be submitted to competent authorities to act accordingly before the date scheduled for the convocation of the seventeenth session of the General Conference.

NEPAL

Recommendation on the International Standardization of Library Statistics submitted to competent authority, Ministry of Education Committee organized by His Majesty's Government, takes into account the Recommendation and would suggest rules in conformity with the provisions of the Recommendation for application.

NETHERLANDS

The Recommendation in question has already been submitted by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Recreation and Social Welfare to the main national body concerned, namely: Central Bureau of Statistics (under the Ministry of Economic Affairs). Copies of the Recommendation have also been made available to the following national bodies concerned:

1. Government Inspectorate of Public Libraries.
2. Government Advisory Committee on Library Affairs.
3. Netherlands Organization for the Promotion of Information (NOBIN).

Consultations took place between representatives of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Recreation and Social Welfare and the Central Bureau of Statistics as regards the implementation of the Recommendation. This was followed by a meeting on the subject between the representatives of the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Netherlands Library and Reading Room Centre.

Further, the Central Bureau of Statistics will be approaching the national library organizations with a view to ensure the implementation of the Recommendation.

NEW ZEALAND

In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article IV of the Unesco Constitution the Recommendation has been submitted to the competent New Zealand authorities for consideration.

POLAND

(a) The Recommendation has been submitted to the competent authorities.

(b) The competent authority for the submission of reports is the Ministry of Culture and Art - working, as regards libraries through its Department of Culture, Education and Libraries.

(c) Steps have been taken to give effect to the Recommendation.

(d) The ideas embodied in the Recommendation will be taken into consideration in the legislation of the country.

SWEDEN

The Recommendation has been brought to the attention of the Royal Library, the Central Bureau of Statistics and other competent Swedish authorities, where the text is at present being studied with a view to finding out to what degree it is practically applicable to Swedish conditions. As far as the research libraries are concerned, Swedish library statistics seem to be organized to a great extent in accordance with the principles set out in the Recommendation.

UNITED KINGDOM

Competent authorities

2. The United Kingdom confirms that the Recommendation has been submitted to the competent national authorities in the United Kingdom. The appropriate authority depends upon the type of library concerned and its geographical location, as shown in the following table:

Department of Education and Science

National, college, other major non-specialized, school and public libraries in England
College and public libraries in Wales

Welsh Office/Welsh Education Office

National Library of Wales and school libraries in Wales

Scottish Education Department

National, college, other major non-specialized, school and public libraries in Scotland

Northern Ireland Ministry of Education

College, other major non-specialized, school and public libraries in Northern Ireland
(There is at present no national library in Northern Ireland.)

University Grants Committee

University libraries in England, Wales and Scotland. The University Grants Committee also advises the Government of Northern Ireland on university libraries within the province.

3. "College libraries" are libraries of institutions of further and higher education which are not part of a university; and include those in polytechnics, other further education establishments and colleges of education (for teacher training). There are no "public libraries financed from private sources" as defined by the Recommendation.

4. No one Government Department in the United Kingdom has hitherto been charged with responsibility for special libraries. However, the Department of Education and Science, in conjunction

with the appropriate departments and ministries in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is considering statistics relating to special libraries in the United Kingdom and the co-ordination of library statistics generally.

5. The United Kingdom library services do not extend to the Isle of Man or to the Channel Islands which have separate administrations.

Effective Steps

6. The competent national authorities have taken steps to give effect to the Recommendation, though in view of the division of responsibility for the different categories of institution the rate of implementation has varied. Priority has been given to the collection of the required statistics in the public library sector. Progress in each sector is summarized below.

(a) National libraries

7. A new national library, to be called the British Library, is about to be created by the absorption of several existing national library institutions in England. It has therefore been thought preferable not to introduce any statistical changes until the British Library Board has been established.

(b)(i)/(ii) University libraries

8. A questionnaire covering university libraries issued by the University Grants Committee in 1971 in respect of the year 1970-1971 was based on the Unesco Recommendations relating to the number of libraries, size of collections and annual additions. Consideration is being given to the inclusion, in future questionnaires, of further categories of information.

(b)(iii) College libraries

9. With the support and co-operation of the appropriate government departments, a professional body (the Library Association) collects statistics relating to libraries in (i) polytechnics, colleges of technology, art and commerce and other establishments of further education; and (ii) colleges of education (for the education and training of teachers).

10. In relation to group (i) above, the questionnaire issued in September 1971 relating to the year 1970-1971 was substantially modified in the light of the Unesco Recommendation, although not all the recommended categories of information were covered. Returns were received from a significant proportion (but not from all) of colleges in England, Wales and Scotland and the information was published early in 1972.

11. In relation to (ii) above the questionnaire issued to colleges of education in the United Kingdom has not yet been reconsidered in the light of the Unesco Recommendation.

(c) Other major non-specialized libraries

12. As the very few other major non-specialized libraries are not subject to Government control, they have not yet been invited to provide statistics even on a voluntary basis.

(d) School libraries

13. No action has yet been taken to collect statistics on school libraries in a form compatible with the Unesco Recommendation. Consultations will be needed with the bodies mainly responsible for school library services and standards.

(e) Special libraries

14. Industrial and commercial firms and non-governmental organizations are under no obligation to consult or inform any government department about the establishment of a special library. Because of the difficulty of identifying and locating libraries in non-governmental organizations, no action has been taken to collect special library statistics, but this is being further considered.

(f) Public libraries

15. By agreement between the Government departments and professional bodies[1] concerned, it was decided that, beginning with the statistics relating to the financial year 1971-1972, the questionnaire seeking statistics for all public libraries in the United Kingdom should be modified to cover the types of data recommended by Unesco. Public library authorities were notified of this and were supplied with an advance copy of the revised questionnaire in April 1971. As a result of comments received from some authorities, a few minor modifications - mainly for purposes of clarification - were made in May 1972. The modified questionnaire will be issued in August 1972 and an analysis of the returns will be published by the appropriate professional bodies early in 1973.

16. With two exceptions the questionnaire covers all the information which Unesco recommends should be collected and in some respects, notably in relation to staffing establishments in contrast to staff actually in post, calls for information additional to that set out in the Unesco Recommendation. The two exceptions are:

(i) Number of registered borrowers; and

(ii) Number of works lent (this statistic is, however, being collected separately by a commercial organization).

17. Because of local variations in the period of validity of a borrower's registration, in the periods allowed for loan and in the number of books allowed to each reader, it is considered that these statistics would provide an inaccurate and misleading indication of the use of public lending facilities in the United Kingdom. To provide an alternative measure of use, the questionnaire asks public librarians to count the number of items on loan on a particular day at the end of March.

Further action

18. Discussions have taken place and will be continuing with representatives of responsible bodies. But any substantial increase in the volume or range of library statistics collected and analysed will inevitably require additional staff which can at present be provided only within existing manpower ceilings.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was called upon to prepare the report since it is the appropriate national authority responsible for disseminating information and collecting statistics on libraries. The Office has, therefore, taken necessary steps to implement the provisions of the Recommendation as well as to bring it to the attention of professional organizations and officials of national, state and local libraries, publishers and others concerned with data on libraries. Such channels as national conferences, State meetings and journals have been used to inform the library constituency of this document and its recommendations intended to improve statistics on library science.

The complete text of the Recommendation and background information concerning its development was published in several journals which reach a wide audience of librarians, documentalists and statisticians. Copies of three feature articles are submitted:

1. Schick, Frank L., Library Statistics: A Century Plus. American Libraries, July-August 1971, pp. 727-731.[2]

2. _____, International Library Statistics Program, American Libraries, January 1972, pp. 73-77.[2]

3. _____, International Library Statistics, Standardization Development During 1971, New York, New York, 1972 Bowker Annual, pp. 193-196.[2]

(1) The Library Association, the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants and the Society of County Treasurers.

(2) Not reproduced.

A report was given at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Dallas, Texas on 22 June 1971, by Dr. Frank L. Schick. Dr. Schick was the United States Representative to the meeting of experts called by Unesco to consider the field of standardization of library statistics and contributed to the drafting of the Recommendation prior to its adoption by the General Conference of Unesco. The library profession received full details concerning the provisions of the Recommendation and the new definitions and classifications agreed upon for international comparability of statistics.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) took measures to implement the Recommendation by making needed adjustments and revisions in the statistical surveys for libraries. The changes related generally to definitions which will be reflected in future surveys of public, college and university libraries, and school media centres, and were agreed upon in co-operation with the responsible officials submitting data on libraries from the fifty States.

As a result of these understandings national statistical library surveys, conducted by the Office of Education for 1971 and 1972, have been revised to accommodate to the terms, definitions, concepts, quantification and methodology of the International Recommendation in the collection of information for four major reports on libraries:

1. NCES Survey of College and University Libraries 1971 (Institutional data; analytical report)

2. NCES Survey of Public Libraries 1971.

3. NCES Survey of Federal Libraries 1972. (First universe survey of special libraries).

4. NCES Survey of Instruments for Library General Information 1972.

The International Recommendation on Library Statistics has been a valuable document to stimulate action in the collection and improvement of national library statistics. It is now anticipated that the revisions which have been made in planning for library statistical surveys will result in more reliable, meaningful and comparable data than that obtained previously. The co-operative discussions, and involvement of many of the library profession in this national effort has been a forward step to improve professional competence, to provide data for statistical evaluation and to gather information to enable library needs to be projected for the next decade.

YUGOSLAVIA

On embarking on its survey on libraries in 1971, the Federal Institute of Statistics, Belgrade, Kneza Milosa 20, aligned its methodology almost completely to the Unesco Recommendation concerning the international standardization of library statistics adopted on 13 November 1970.

In the course of the preparations for the survey, all the necessary modifications were introduced in the methodology for library statistics previously used. This country has also adopted the definitions of concepts, the classification of libraries, the types of data to be reported, and the periodicity of surveys, which in fact had already been fixed at three years. However, it was not felt possible to adopt the Recommendation to include in the return the number of residents liable to use libraries in a habitat, i.e. a particular commune. The data obtained would not be reliable. The library can be used by the population of a district neighbouring that where it is located and the libraries are not in a position to provide data on possible users from other neighbourhoods. If they tried it difficulties would be met with both by the libraries and by the statistical bodies responsible for the organization and implementation of the survey and the evaluation of the data from it.

The Federal Institute of Statistics was unable to adopt the recommendation on the replies about the production of microfilms and photocopies by libraries, and about inter-library lending within the country and abroad.

In the course of the survey it proved difficult to obtain accurate answers as to books and other objects held by libraries measured in metres of occupied shelves. Many libraries did not answer this question, and a further proportion of answers did not make sense. For this reason the Federal

Institute of Statistics will not be able to use the results of the 1971 survey in respect of the data to be figured by metres of occupied shelves.

The classification of libraries used in Yugoslavia differs from that of Unesco with regard to the public (or popular) libraries.

1. Under the Unesco classification, public libraries are divided into the two following groups:

   (a) libraries for the general public, wholly or partially financed by the State or local authorities;

   (b) libraries financed from private sources.

2. Under the classification used in Yugoslavia, public libraries are divided into:

   (a) popular libraries for the general public, namely municipal community or city libraries;

   (b) special public libraries serving a particular category of users (libraries for children, hospital patients, the blind, etc.).

Public libraries financed from private sources do not figure in this classification since they do not exist in Yugoslavia.